



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission

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December 1, 2012

REPORT TO THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In accordance with Section 17.1-905 of the Code of Virginia, the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission makes the following report concerning its activities during the past twelve months:

1. The Commission maintains statistical information on all incoming complaints, telephone calls and correspondence. Complaints and inquiries are separated into categories indicating the source, the nature of the complaint or inquiry, and whether a violation of the Canons of Judicial Conduct was alleged. The statistics are attached and made a part of this report.

2. The Commission's 2012 statistical report also includes the number of times during the year that the Commission issued formal charges against a judge; the number of formal hearings conducted; the number of suspensions; the number of informal meetings with judges to discuss complaints; the number of cases in which Commission findings were reported to the General Assembly; and the number of formal complaints filed in the Supreme Court of Virginia.

3. Pamphlets describing the function of the Commission are widely available to the public. They are distributed to all the Clerks' offices of General District, Juvenile, and Circuit Courts. The pamphlet explains how complaints are initiated, the confidential nature of Commission proceedings, and the array of dispositions available to the Commission. Similar pamphlets specifically aimed at lawyers also have been distributed widely to members of the bar.

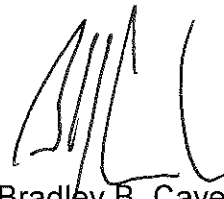
4. Information concerning the Commission also is available on the Internet on the home page of the Virginia Supreme Court. The Commission's Rules, the Canons of Judicial Conduct and complaint forms are accessible on the website.

5. Commission Counsel provides informal ethics advice to Virginia judges on a daily basis. During the past twelve months, Counsel responded to more than 450 such requests.

6. The Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee responds to requests from judges for formal opinions concerning whether proposed future conduct complies with the Canons of Judicial Conduct. Commission staff continues to provide administrative support for this Committee. Information concerning the Ethics Committee and an index of the Committee's formal opinions also are available on the Internet.

7. The Commission presents educational programs concerning judicial ethics. The Commission participated in ethics training sessions for new judges and at the mandatory judicial conferences for district court and circuit court judges. The Commission also conducted ethics training for substitute judges in Virginia Beach, Roanoke, Staunton, and Richmond.

Respectfully submitted,



Bradley B. Cavedo
Chairman

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Enclosure

JUDICIAL INQUIRY AND REVIEW COMMISSION
December 1, 2011 to November 30, 2012

Judges subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission	794
State Corporation Commission Judges	3
Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission	3

Telephone inquiries received		Nature of telephone inquiry	
Attorneys	34	Ruling/decision	205
Judges	456	Ex parte	9
Court employees	6	Bias or prejudice	45
General public	73	Delay	19
Litigants	342	Rude behavior	53
Victims	6	Failure to follow the law	30
Inmates	1	Ethics opinion	481
Media	0	How to file	207
Other	60	Other	237
In Person	21		
TOTAL	996		1286

Written inquiries received		Nature of written inquiry	
Attorneys	11	Ruling/decision	329
Judges	3	Ex parte	11
Court employees	0	Bias or prejudice	45
General public	11	Delay	15
Litigants	233	Rude behavior	76
Victims	0	Failure to follow the law	48
Inmates	165	Ethics opinion	1
Media	0	How to file	25
Other	27	Other	233
TOTAL	450		783

Files opened upon the complaint of		Commission Dispositions	
Attorney	5	Informal Meetings	7
Litigant	3	Dismissed	23
Judge	1	Suspensions	0
Inmate	0	Formal charges	0
Court Staff	2	Formal hearings	1
Commission	13	Canons breached	1
Victims	0	Findings reported to General Assembly	0
Other	0	Supreme Court complaints	1
		Retired	2
		Resigned	0
		Pending	1
TOTAL	24		

Recusals

Staff	0
Commission	7